Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIO DE 02702 132128Z ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 COME-00 /047 W

-----132347Z 054159 /65

R 131850Z JUN 77 FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4997 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 2702

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, BENC, BR

SUBJECT: GOB CANCELS DOMESTIC SATELLITE PROJECT

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 2619

1. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER QUANDT DE OLIVEIRA ANNOUNCED JUNE 8 THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL SITUATION, HAD DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE DOMESTIC SATELLITE PROJECT. THEORETICALLY, THIS DECISION LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION RESURRECTING THE PROJECT. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW STUDYING ALTERNATIVCE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR THE AMAZON REGION (WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF BENEFICIARY OF THE DOMESTIC SATELLITE) AND IN EFFECT HAS REJECTED THE DOMESTIC SATELLITE CONCEPT.

2. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO SPECULATED THAT GOVERNMENT TELE-COMMUNICATION PLANNERS HAD INADVERTENTLY MADE THE PROJECT VULNERABLE BY EMPHASIZING THE SATELLITE'S ROLE IN THE INTEGRATION OF THE AMAZON REGION, INSTEAD OF ITS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL VIABILITY. AMAZON INTEGRATION IS NO LONGER AS HIGH A PRIORITY AS IT HAD ONCE BEEN. UNCLASSIFIED

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SIMMONS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Subject: GOB CANCELS DOMESTIC SATELLITE PROJECT

TAGS: ETEL, BENC, BR

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